LINDBLOM et al
Serial No. 09/688,165

Atty Dkt: 2380-155
Art Unit: 2661

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3, as follows:

This application is related to simultaneously filed United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/688,152 ~~(attorney docket 2380-154)~~, entitled "SYNCRHONOUS CHANGE OF SWITCHPLANE", which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 20, and continuing to page 3, line 2, as follows:

One conventional method of detecting failure of a switch plane is to permit the switch port interface units to communicate with one another via handshaking packets or the like. As long as successful bidirectional handshaking occurs, it is presumed that there is full connectivity through the active switch plane, and therefore that the switch plane is error free. But such handshaking technique unwisely assumes that there is always a switch port interface unit connected to a particular egress port of the switch core. Such assumption may not be correct, as the egress port of the core may be open for future use. Moreover, the switch port interface units may operate at different transmission rates, as can occur when switch port interface units at the same switching node are of differing grades or of differing generations. If the switch port interface units operate at different transmission rates in a handshaking scenario, care must be taken to adjust the times of the handshaking packets, lest there be a timeout or failure to receive a sent handshaking packet. The timing considerations to protect against such a possibility introduce complex and awkward implementations of the handshaking procedures.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 17, and continuing to page 15, line 29, as follows:

The switch maintenance cells are not only used for error detection as above described, but also serve as carriers of information between switch port interface units (SPIC) 26. Three bits in the switch maintenance cell, illustrated in Fig. 4B(2), are used for this purpose. The SPIC_ASP bit is a copy of the ASP register in the switch port interface unit (SPIC) 26. The SPIC_plane_status_A and SPIC_plane_status_B bits reflect the opinion of the switch port interface unit (SPIC) 26 about first switch plane 22 and second switch plane 24. In this regard, ~~The~~ the switch port interface unit (SPIC) 26 considers a switch plane as fully adequate if the following criteria are met: (1) the switch plane is configured; (2) the switch plane and the switch port have been in synchronization for a certain time; (3) no parity errors have occurred over a certain measured time in the SPAS transfer list; (4) no switch maintenance cells have been lost over a certain time; and (5) if a switch port interface unit (SPIC) 26 is forced to use a certain switch plane, it considers the passive switch plane as faulty.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 1, and continuing to page 20, line 10, as follows:

Thus, the detection of flushing of all traffic cells destined to it from first switch plane 22 by switch port interface unit 26 involves actions 7-~~7A~~ 8A through 7-~~7C~~ 8C in the Fig. 7A implementation. Since the actions of Fig. 7A are being performed by all other switch port interface units (since they also received plane change cells), all other switch port interface units are also sending synchronization cells to all other switch port interface units. When, at action 7-8B, it is determined that synchronization cells have been received from all other switch port interface units, as action 7-8C the switch port interface unit realizes that the first switch plane 22 has been fully flushed of all traffic cells headed to the switch port interface unit (so that no traffic cells will be lost or left in first switch plane 22 during the change of switch plane operation)